

GETTING REAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2011

PROMISING PRACTICES FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY PRESENTATION SUMMARIES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A.L.E.R.T.: Autism Lifesaving Emergency Response Training Program	4
Accessible Emergency Communications over Wireless Platforms	5
Addressing Children’s Disaster Related Needs in Joplin, Missouri	6
Alianza Emergency Preparedness Project Plus: Making REAL changes one family at a time	7
An Inclusive Emergency Response to 2011 Alabama Tornadoes	8
AT (Assistive Technology) the Ready! Incorporating AT and AT Reutilization in Emergency Management	9
Be Ready; Be Safe-Disaster Planning Program for Consumers and Families Living with Mental Health Challenges ---	10
Being Prepared: MN Emergency Preparedness Center: The Lessons Learned Through North Minneapolis May 22nd Tornado	11
Bridging Gaps in Preparedness	12
Captioned Braille Radio Initiative: Providing Emergency Information for Individuals who are Deaf-Blind	13
CERT and the Disability Community	14
City of Richmond’s Fully Inclusive Resilient Emergency Management Journey	15
ClackamasVolunteers.org Volunteer Management System	16
Community Disaster Readiness Planning Framework: The Home Fire Safety Example	17
Cross Border Inclusive Emergency Preparedness	18
Developing a Mobile TIPS for First Responders	19
Development of a Faith-Based Public Health Preparedness Workshop Planning Group	20
Disaster Recovery Project-ILRU Program at TIRR Memorial Hermann	21
Do Not Forget Your ADA Coordinator!	22
Emergency Readiness Training for Families Affected by Disability	23
Emergency Registries and Alternatives: Tools for Decision Makers	24
Empowerment Through Emergency Preparedness Integration	25
Fragrance-Free FEMA: A First Step Toward Access For Those Disabled By Environmental Exposures	26
From Grass-Roots Practices to Government Policy: San Francisco’s Model of Interagency Collaboration for Disability Inclusive Disaster Planning and Response	27
Full Participant Inclusion in Emergency Preparedness Organizations/Initiatives: Focusing Beyond the Planning Stage -	28
Functional Assessment Service Teams (FAST) Program in California	29
“Get Real”- Using NFPA’s Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for People with Disabilities	30

Hawaii Feeling Safe Being Safe Training Strategies-----	31
Helping the Feds Get Real-----	33
Inclusion of People with Disabilities into CERT-----	34
Inclusion Requires Communication -----	35
Inclusive Emergency Planning and Response –It’s About the Partnerships-----	36
Islamic Relief USA – A Story of Service for the Whole Community -----	37
Louisiana Promising Practices: Preparedness Planning for All-----	38
Maximizing Emergency Preparedness Communication Access for 1 st Responders working w/ People who are Deaf ---	39
Missouri Community Preparedness for Seniors -----	40
Planning Tools-----	41
Preparing Together - A Partnership to Prepare Seniors and Individuals with Functional and Access Needs -----	42
Reflecting on the Joy, Power and Magic of Disaster Preparedness-----	43
Responding to Emergencies with Youth: the Wisconsin Experience -----	44
San Diego County’s Promising Practices -----	45
Sign Language Interpreter Strike Teams -----	46
Stair Descent Device Performance: Current Research and Standards Efforts-----	47
Teaching and Empowering Local Communities: Learning how to Include and Respond to People with Disabilities ----	48
Team Building and Collaboration in Hawaii-----	49
Texas Functional Needs Support Services Toolkit: Integration, Collaboration and Content -----	50
The New Disaster Policy Wiki - What It Is and How To Use It-----	51
Three R's and a P-----	52
Using the CMIST Model to Engage Community -----	53

A.L.E.R.T.: Autism Lifesaving Emergency Response Training Program (Goldfarb)

New Jersey non-profit executive, B. Madeleine Goldfarb MA, has spent the past fourteen years working on behalf of individuals with autism. Three years ago she developed A.L.E.R.T., teaching first-responders including firefighters, EMTs and police about the signs of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) and the unique accommodations and modifications they can utilize in a call to service. This program began with grass roots efforts by families, and the passage of autism legislation requiring all first responders in the state be trained in recognizing autism and other developmental disabilities. The number individuals, with an ASD, have grown exponentially over the last decades. The federal Centers for Disease Control estimates autism-spectrum disorders may affect 1 in 110 children in the United States alone. New Jersey is in the unique position as having one of the highest rates of autism the nation. There is a sense of urgency in the community to ensure that our first responders have a level of competency with this diagnosis.

Accessible Video Link:

<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-01.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-01.pdf>

Accessible Emergency Communications over Wireless Platforms (Mitchell)

As reported during past manmade and natural disasters, the needs of people with disabilities are often not included in emergency communications plans and technology deployments. The Wireless RERC examined the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and the forthcoming Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS) in regards to the development of accessible mobile emergency alerts. The system was tested with people with various levels of self-identified sensory disabilities; feedback from users helped refine the prototype. This presentation will discuss the potential of wireless technologies to provide accessible public warnings and alerts to people with disabilities as revealed in the findings of twelve field tests and two focus groups. The discussion will cover the customized software created to provide accessible emergency alerts and the design considerations for incorporating accessibility into new devices and next-generation alerting systems. Also discussed will be suggestions for how coordinated efforts of government, the wireless industry and disability stakeholders can facilitate a system capable of delivering emergency alerts to mobile wireless devices in a variety of voice, video and data formats. The presentation will reveal how these low-cost wireless solutions are accessible, user friendly and provide for universal designed emergency communications devices and services.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-02.php>

Text Transcript:

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Addressing Children's Disaster Related Needs in Joplin, Missouri (Brady, Jones, Koziol)

As a result of collaborative efforts amongst Federal, State, and local governments, the Independent Living Center, faith based and non-governmental organizations, private sector partners, the Joplin School District, and others; children's disaster related needs have been efficiently and effectively addressed during the recovery phase of one of our nation's most devastating tornado's. The impacts of this tornado were not only devastating, but life changing for the community of Joplin. Of the 7,747 students in the Joplin school district, 54 percent lived in the tornado zone (over 6,500 households were affected), 14 children (overall) lost their lives, 260 teachers lost their classrooms and 10 area schools were either destroyed or so badly damaged they are now uninhabitable. This panel discussion will provide a general overview of how taking a whole of community approach has helped to ensure that the needs of children with and without access and functional needs have been addressed in Joplin, Missouri.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-03.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-03.pdf>

**Alianza Emergency Preparedness Project Plus:
Making REAL changes one family at a time
(Majeski/Sathan/Cubillo)**

The Alianza Emergency Preparedness Project Plus(AEPP-Plus) is funded as a Grant of National Significance by the United States Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families. AEPP-Plus is designed to address the disaster readiness of persons with access and functional needs who live in a culturally diverse, majority Hispanic/Latino, low income community, which has been underserved in all areas. AEPP Plus brings individuals, not only to the table, but to leadership positions in disaster readiness. The overarching goal of AEPPplus is to integrate all individuals, into their community's overall disaster readiness preparations; and shifting attitudes and changing systems to assure a truly responsive and embracing community.

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An Inclusive Emergency Response to 2011 Alabama Tornadoes (Edwards/Geiger/Sisson/Schoening/McCarthy-Barnett/Batchelor/ Fugate)

The Alabama tornadoes were the first large-scale disaster since the release of the Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) Guidance, and provided an opportunity to implement and evaluate FNSS in a real world response and recovery. Within two days of the devastating spring tornadoes, The Alabama Interagency Emergency Response Coordinating Committee (AIERCC) was formed. Representatives of the Americana Red Cross and FEMA joined daily conference calls. Committee members effectively communicated needs of residents of local communities and shared recovery resources. Minutes of daily conference calls including action steps were disseminated to agencies who serve individuals with disabilities and chronic illnesses and disability advocates throughout Alabama. Volunteers were utilized to gather, compile and disseminate a database of recovery information and resources that was updated twice daily. Broadcast and social media; state health, education, rehabilitation, aging, and mental health agencies; city and county government; United Way 2-1-1 and other nonprofits widely disseminated the Database. Volunteers delivered hard copies of the Database to relief sites, especially locations with limited utility service. The Committee solicited contact information about individuals with disabilities and chronic illness in need of immediate assistance, particularly those who could not travel to designated shelters and relief sites. A Sheltering Team integrated new and existing partners as well as other specialized community leaders in FNSS planning to accommodate individuals with access and functional needs in general population shelters. Pre-event planning and creative modifications allowed for integration versus isolation in specialized shelters. The team worked directly with people with functional and access needs within the shelters, ensuring they had a voice in determining that the information and services they received were appropriate. Those requiring long-term temporary or permanent housing were also included in the team's focus. Alabama's FNSS response and recovery methodologies were modeled in the Joplin, Missouri tornado response. The collaborations that took place both before and during these events between state, federal and other non-governmental, faith-based and voluntary agency partners greatly enhanced the delivery of services to individuals with disabilities and the elderly.

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AT (Assistive Technology) the Ready!
Incorporating AT and AT Reutilization in Emergency Management
(Rust/Goldman)

This session will explore an emerging, replicable strategy that brings together leaders in the area of disability, emergency management and assistive technology (AT) to help maximize resources.

Assistive technology – devices and services – can mean the difference between independence and dependence for people with functional needs. In an emergency or disaster, people who rely on these technologies for communication, mobility, and other functions may lose access to their devices. In some cases, people will develop NEW needs for AT as a result of the event. State Assistive Technology Act (AT Act) programs are important sources for information about AT devices and services, and can help connect emergency managers with resources to help meet the AT needs of individuals affected by disaster. As a result of this session, attendees will learn (1) about the activities conducted by AT Act programs; (2) how to locate their AT Act program and other state resources for reutilized devices; (3) a replicable strategy for partnering in regional planning that addresses AT and AT reuse; and (4) additional resources for information on this topic.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-07.php>

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Be Ready; Be Safe-Disaster Planning Program for Consumers and Families Living with Mental Health Challenges (Wells)

Be Ready; Be Safe focuses on building the capacity of communities, programs, organizations, and businesses to implement a disaster preparation and response program for and with consumers of mental health services and families of children and youth with emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs. We know approximately 4.4 percent of all adults in this country reported a mental health condition and 5% of children in the country were prescribed medication for difficulties with emotions or behavior. The needs of individuals with mental health challenges are often understated and misinterpreted and disaster planning, response, and recovery situations are no exception. Persons with mental health needs can present with access barriers such as anxiety, medication and treatment challenges, inability to properly apply planning and response techniques, barriers related to generalized disaster and emergency response, and difficulties evacuating due to sheltering environments. Dwindling resources have prompted communities to heighten their capacity to meet the unique needs of all of their residents, including those with mental health issues and their families. Be Ready; Be Safe promotes a four tiered approach to community base capacity building, including Organization/Program Preparation, Community Capacity Building, Peer Directed, Family Driven, and Youth Guided Approaches, and Individualized Planning.

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**Being Prepared: MN Emergency Preparedness Center:
The Lessons Learned Through North Minneapolis May 22nd Tornado
(Kenney)**

May 22, 2011 North Minneapolis F1 Tornado ripped through North Minneapolis an urban poor community. Families of individuals who had access or functional needs chose to stay in their homes even though their yards were littered with live electrical wires, homes had gas leaks, no power or water due to the realistic fear of their homes being broken their property stolen. Our Promising Practice is to expand current policies and procedures to include urban, poor, high crime communities. Too often, urban poor community's unique needs are not included when developing local, state and national emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation programs. And through our Being Prepared: MN Emergency Preparedness Center's 'My Personal Safety Plan' individuals with access and functional needs are able to choose how they would like to receive information and services including who will deliver those services. The use of icons remove barriers to non-readers, new immigrants and others with reading challenges have equal access to the information serving the whole community.

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Bridging Gaps in Preparedness (Walker)

The purpose of the project was to create a multidimensional tool to educate and inform any community by increasing the knowledge base of those individuals in the community with an easy to access and useful resource. Join us and learn how to use existing resources to help your community plan for and respond to natural and manmade disaster. This presentation will give you an educational tool that will assist your community in preparing for and responding to disasters. This resource has been formatted to accommodate deaf, hard of hearing, blind, limited sight, and low literacy populations. The tool is free to use and distribute among your community. We will also highlight a current project that will soon be complete and shared for a more extensive public health related preparedness tool.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-10.php>

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**Captioned Braille Radio Initiative:
Providing Emergency Information for Individuals who are Deaf-Blind
(Starling/Sheffield)**

NPR, Towson University, the Helen Keller National Center, and the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) have been working to develop a prototype and demonstrate the model for a Braille Radio service with Emergency Alerting System (EAS) support. The project has created a best operating practice based on extensive user testing with users who are deaf-blind and blind Braille users at the Helen Keller National Center, the American Association of the Deaf-Blind (AADB) Conference and several NFB conferences as well as demonstrations at the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) convention. An internet media display prototype has been developed that converts captioning for radio broadcasts into text outputs that feed an existing refreshable Braille display as well as connecting to a bed shaker for emergency alerting when critical shelter-in-place or evacuation instructions are needed. The project capitalizes on the new Emergency Alerting System Common Alerting Protocol, the FEMA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System aggregator, and internet protocol (IP) routing upgrades of the Public Radio Satellite System.

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CERT and the Disability Community (Carter)

Empowering all community members through CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) team training, no matter who they are and what their functional and access needs are, all have one thing in common. They all need to become prepared for all types of disasters through education, hands-on training and then practice. By educating the community and its members, they are prepared and not waiting there or unprepared, waiting for the government or local governments to assist them. Assistance comes first from individuals, then from the community members through community planning, education and practice. By educating individuals with access and functional needs in the emergency management process, or if they want to join CERT, they now feel that they have a stake in the planning process and will become part of the solution. In the emergency management process, everyone has a place, no matter what their access and functional needs are. All services are provided to all community individuals free of charge.

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City of Richmond's Fully Inclusive Resilient Emergency Management Journey (Gerk)

We don't know what we don't know – often local government doesn't even know the right questions to ask to develop fully inclusive and resilient Emergency Operations Plans that fully address the needs for people with disabilities and the elderly. As an emergency manager with over twenty years experience I was proud our planning, training and response efforts. Hurricane Katrina, Rita and Wilma opened my eyes to challenges that I hadn't fully considered nor planned for. Even having firsthand experience as a grandmother of a Deaf child and caregiver for elderly parents I had planning challenges. I needed to re-group, re-think and research our efforts to ensure that the needs of ALL were adequately addressed. So began the City of Richmond's Fully Inclusive Resilient Emergency Management journey. The only way that the City could become fully inclusive and resilient was to build collaborative relationships and ask the tough questions – AND be willing to make the changes that needed to be made- WITH TOP LEVEL SUPPORT!

Accessible Video Link:

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ClackamasVolunteers.org Volunteer Management System (Burley)

Volunteers are more critical to successful emergencies than any government agency alone! As such, Clackamas County promotes the spirit of volunteerism and recognizes that alone, the county can't possibly plan for and address emergency issues of our entire community. BUT, with our volunteers and volunteer organizations we can make a significant DIFFERENCE! The mission of the website is to promote the values of volunteerism to enrich communities, build relationships that can unite great people and service opportunities and develop strong partnerships. Clackamas Volunteers is a website where registered partner organizations in need of volunteers can post volunteer opportunities and promote their agency to potential volunteers as a place for service. Potential volunteers use the system to register for volunteer opportunities of their interest and find organizations in need of assistance including emergency related opportunities, day-to-day volunteering efforts, and more. The system is designed to accommodate first time volunteers, spontaneous and/or seasoned volunteers.

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Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-14.pdf>

**Community Disaster Readiness Planning Framework:
The Home Fire Safety Example
(Swenson)**

The Inclusive Preparedness Center (IPC) has developed and demonstrated a highly effective approach to engaging people with access and functional needs in emergency planning processes. Trusted community organizations, advocacy groups, or other agencies are supported with low-literacy, high-visual planning materials to train organization members or staff to engage the people they serve in practical action to prepare for emergency response and recovery. A very successful test case is being supported by a grant from FEMA's Fire Prevention and Safety Grants program: the approach and planning materials were adapted for use by fire life safety educators and partner organizations to engage members of communities at high risk of fire in residential fire safety planning and practice. Over 100,000 sets of the free materials have been ordered by home safety educators for use in more than 30 states only 6 months after they became available. Feedback received for the evaluation process to date has been overwhelmingly positive. Materials will be distributed at the presentation and orders taken for the free materials.

****Video unavailable on FEMA website****

Cross Border Inclusive Emergency Preparedness (Cameron)

The Inclusive Preparedness Center is a founding member of Inclusive Emergency Prepared Canada, a cross border initiative to share emergency preparedness and response knowledge and expertise between the United States and Canada. A promising practice has been developed and implemented to support Ontario's Accessibility Standards for Customer Service requiring compliance under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), creates a need for training materials for emergency reception centers (analogous to congregate shelters in the US), shelter staff and volunteers on how best to assist people with disabilities during an emergency or disaster within congregate shelters. IEPC provided both advance preparedness and just-in-time training materials for shelter staff and volunteers to help them supply the necessary supports and services for their consumers with disabilities in the event of an emergency. These materials will be demonstrated to show applicability on both countries.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-16.php>

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Developing a Mobile TIPS for First Responders (Stough)

Project REDD at the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University developed the Mobile TIPS for First Responders for use on hand-held devices such as Blackberries and iPhones. The Mobile TIPS is a free-access mobile application provided at no charge to first responders, disaster service providers, and voluntary agencies. It provides guidelines on including individuals with disabilities in evacuation and sheltering procedures, as well as contact information for organizations and advocacy groups knowledgeable about access and functional needs. The print version of the TIPS for First Responders was originally developed by Dr. Tony Cahill. The Mobile TIPS integrates the original TIPS, emergency and disability acronyms, the Guide to Support and Services for Individuals with Disabilities in Disaster, and the Directory of Community Services. The Directory integrates a database of over 4,000 organizations and services searchable by inputting a zip code or functional need category.

Accessible Video Link:

<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-17.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-17.pdf>

**Development of a Faith-Based Public Health
Preparedness Workshop Planning Group
(Thomas/Slater)**

The Philadelphia-area Faith-Based Planning Group was established in June 2010 and is in the process of planning its third biannual Public Health Emergency Preparedness workshop. This presentation will discuss current Emergency Management collaborations in Southeastern Pennsylvania, the Trusted Source Outreach Model, successes and challenges of the Philadelphia-area Faith-Based Planning Group, and steps to developing a planning group that can be replicated in other jurisdictions.

****Video unavailable on FEMA website****

Disaster Recovery Project-ILRU Program at TIRR Memorial Hermann (Mansueto)

After Hurricane Ike, ILRU at TIRR Memorial Hermann received funding from disaster recovery and social service block grants to identify and serve people with access and functional needs. Houston-based ILRU possesses specialized knowledge and experience in working with disability. This expertise provided the basis of ILRU's Disaster Recovery Project. Immediately after Ike, ILRU set up a call center to provide assistance to people with disabilities, and identified critical disability and medical needs at a Red Cross shelter. ILRU developed a program to provide long-term disaster recovery assistance in collaboration with social service, non-profit, faith-based, and emergency management organizations. We developed protocols to identify the scope of client needs and connect them to appropriate resources.

****Video unavailable on FEMA website****

Do Not Forget Your ADA Coordinator!

(Fadale)

This presentation outlines how a Disability/ADA Coordinator can assist during disasters and other types of events. The coordinator has a role to assist emergency management and our government and community partners to ensure sure integration of accessibility in all phases of emergency management. The presentation will focus on three broad areas: a) broadly outline ADA obligations during disasters to ensure accessibility during all phases of emergency management; b) looks at how an ADA Coordinator can play a leadership role during disasters as part of the overall team; c) how you can use other accessibility initiatives like construction or web accessibility to strengthen relationships with all of our partners to ensure accessibility without putting all the emphasis on emergency planning and its other phases.

Accessible Video Link:

<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-20.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-20.pdf>

Emergency Readiness Training for Families Affected by Disability (Wolf-Fordham)

The UMASS Medical School Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center conducted an online survey of parents/guardians of children with disabilities/chronic health care needs (CHCN) to assess their emergency preparedness knowledge, needs and behaviors. Survey results suggest that while many respondent parents recognized the importance of emergency preparedness, they had not engaged in commonly recommended disaster planning activities, and even families that considered themselves to be “very prepared” had taken less than half the recommended readiness steps. To address this gap we developed a demonstration pilot training project designed to increase parent emergency readiness knowledge, skills and behaviors, ultimately enhancing family resilience as participants created family plans. Survey results informed the training, which was developed in collaboration with parents of children with disabilities/CHCN and emergency responders. During the training, which focused on “what if” thinking and planning, participants completed at least ¾ of a family emergency plan, sharing “need to know” information. The project evaluation indicated high levels of satisfaction with the training, increased participant knowledge, and self-confidence about ability to take further preparedness steps. Materials developed for the training will be shared during the presentation, along with lessons learned from both projects and issues related to future project replication.

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Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-21.pdf>

Emergency Registries and Alternatives: Tools for Decision Makers (Kailes)

Some communities offer people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs the chance to register for emergency assistance before and / or during an emergency. This workshop presents material from a working draft paper not yet available for distribution. It previews the elements of a new evaluation tool developed to assist registry's sponsors and registrants in an, objective and methodical, rather than an emotional, assessment of the effectiveness of the resources and response capacity needed to develop and sustain a registry. Identification of resources, and an honest assessment of the capabilities and limitations of those resources, is essential to effective emergency response and recovery. When this does not occur emergency managers and first responders may grossly overestimate or underestimate the resource capabilities hampering response and recovery efforts. Discussion of other methods of response as alternatives to registries will also be covered. These include use of next generation technologies and elements of whole community planning involving using existing information and resources from government, business, NGOs sectors. These sectors have connections to, credibility with, records and lists of segments of people with functional needs who might easily otherwise fall through the cracks.

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Text Transcript:

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Empowerment Through Emergency Preparedness Integration (Kaufman/Lima)

During the disaster recovery response phase for the 2011 disasters, Tennessee has become aware at the Joint Field Office (JFO) that communications in planning and preparing for the access and functional needs community, especially with regard to Deaf and HoH consumers, that a planning assumption has allowed for a gap for years. It was assumed that ALL functional and access needs were being met through other organizations working with specific segments of the population. This assumption is remedied with integration of the access and functional needs community into emergency preparedness planning, via a coalition of leaders and emergency planners/managers who can incorporate plans, training and exercises to ensure viable integration of consumers with the emergency response and recovery system. In addition, a trained consumer is one ready to integrate into shelters and cooperate with Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) for Individual Assistance (IA). The Deaf and Hard of Hearing evacuees, including Deaf-Blind can be the most valuable asset to the process as a prepared citizen in advance of a disaster. In fact, they can become the model citizen in emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-23.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-23.pdf>

Fragrance-Free FEMA: A First Step Toward Access For Those Disabled By Environmental Exposures (Lamielle)

Many populations including those with chemical sensitivities/intolerances, asthma, allergies, migraines, autism, ADHD and breathing and lung disorders, among others, are sick or disabled by exposure to toxic/allergic substances and products. In order to be accessible for these individuals, emergency services and disaster relief must promote healthy indoor environmental quality (IEQ) by removing or minimizing environmental barriers to the extent possible. As a first step, the FEMA workplace as well as supplies and services provided for emergency preparedness and disaster relief including medical and healthcare supplies, personal care, laundry, and cleaning and maintenance products must be fragrance-free. Scent-free policies and practices in the public and private sector are enhancing the public health and improving access for people disabled by chemical exposures. A number of federal agencies have promulgated fragrance-free policies. The U.S. Access Board adopted a fragrance-free meeting policy in 2000. The CDC adopted a comprehensive fragrance-free policy in June 2009. The CDC policy restricts employee use of fragrances and fragranced products and prohibits the use of scented cleaning and maintenance products. FEMA should follow the lead of the CDC by promulgating a fragrance-free policy for its workplace and for emergency services and disaster relief.

Accessible Video Link:

<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-24.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-24.pdf>

**From Grass-Roots Practices to Government Policy: San Francisco's
Model of Interagency Collaboration for Disability
Inclusive Disaster Planning and Response
(Fraguli)**

Serving the disability community in a disaster is more than just an emergency management issue; it is a Disability Rights issue. Emergency planning has been traditionally the function of a select group of emergency management professionals that use disability experts only in an advisory capacity. True to the spirit of the disability rights movement motto, of “nothing about us without us”, San Francisco uses a multidisciplinary emergency management model that collaborates directly with, and is guided by the local disability community. Partners include disability advocates, service providers, the City’s ADA compliance office, Human Services Agency, Dept. of Emergency Management and the local American Red Cross Chapter. San Francisco’s outcomes from this unique model of service delivery include: (1) Integration of a disability coordination component in the City’s ICS structure, (2) a program of signed Statements of Understanding (SOUs) to ensure local availability of disability specific resources and personnel, and (3) an Access & Functional Needs Appendix incorporated in the City’s Mass Care and Shelter Plan. Overall, San Francisco’s model creates a mental shift from viewing people with disabilities as “emergency management challenges” to “community assets and partners”.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-25.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-25.pdf>

Full Participant Inclusion in Emergency Preparedness Organizations/Initiatives: Focusing Beyond the Planning Stage (Byerly, Dickson, Hibbs)

This session highlights the important role of peer support in the integration of emergency organizations/initiatives as consumers **Need, Want, and Deserve** to participate fully in all aspects of planning, exercising, and responding. Diversity matters and all benefit from relationships with consumers who represent the disability community. Servant leadership, policy making and advocacy to promote full integration will be addressed. Examine the success of and how to of the adapting of the FEMA/Citizen Corps Girl Scout Patch Program for addressing public health/safety, and emergency preparedness, along with learning how to assemble a pet/service animal "Grab-N-Go" bags. Leave inspired to promote consumer to consumer engagement and the wellness recovery movement.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-26.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-26.pdf>

Functional Assessment Service Teams (FAST) Program in California (Kailes/Devolder/Logan)

This presentation will discuss the how and why of the California FAST Program has been designed and implemented. The presentation will cover the qualifications, roles and responsibilities of FAST members; how FAST members are trained and what support is necessary from the lead agency in the state. The presentation will also review how the American Red Cross partners with the California Department of Social Services and with local authorities to support the success of FAST in a shelter. There will be time for participants to ask questions about FAST of the presenters.

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Text Transcript:

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**“Get Real”- Using NFPA’s Emergency Evacuation
Planning Guide for People with Disabilities
(Fraser)**

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate’s mantra is “We don’t plan for easy in FEMA, we plan for real.” Over 50% of our communities will need assistance in an emergency with 20% likely to have disabilities affecting their ability to understand preparedness information, hear alerts and get out of their building. In 2007, NFPA published the first step by step guide for preparing a personal emergency evacuation plan from any building for people with disabilities on March 2, 2007. This session will look at development of personal evacuation plans using the “Guide” and how they practice them. Using NFPA’s Emergency Evacuation Planning for People with Disabilities is the first step to “Getting Real”.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-28.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-28.pdf>

Hawaii Feeling Safe Being Safe Training Strategies (Skaggs, Kelly, Getty)

The Hawaii Emergency Preparedness System of Support has implemented the Hawaii Feeling Safe Being Safe Emergency Preparedness Training Strategies by building on existing strengths in the disabilities, emergency management and geographic community. Using long standing disabilities services and emergency management partnerships in Hawaii, work done within the Hawaiian communities, and an emergency preparedness education curriculum developed by individuals with a disability in California, a culturally adaptable and comprehensive training strategy was developed. This systematic training strategy is flourishing for individuals with functional and access needs in Hawaii. Implementation of this training strategy is providing opportunities for individuals with functional needs to take ownership of their own personal preparedness, fill leadership positions, to pursue personal vocational opportunities and to assist their natural community in its unique preparedness needs. Recent natural disasters in Hawaii have allowed for real life application and post disaster review, while training analysis shows implementation to be potentially lifesaving and changing for individuals with functional needs, their families and their communities. Important features are its cultural competence, sustainability, whole community support and ability to be replicated for diverse populations.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-29.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-29.pdf>

Feeling Safe, Being Safe Emergency Plan YouTube Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tcm3l0mDsBg>

Feeling Safe, Being Safe Kit

- English http://www.brcenter.org/beta2011/base/lib/lib_pdf/SP_IN_FSBS_Worksheet_EN.pdf
- Spanish http://www.brcenter.org/beta2011/base/lib/lib_pdf/SP_IN_FSBS_Worksheet_SP.pdf

Feeling Safe, Being Safe Plan Curriculum (22pages)

http://www.brcenter.org/lib/lib_pdf/SP_IN_FSBS_Story.pdf

Helping the Feds Get Real

(Margaret Schaefer)

We need your input – this will be an interactive workshop. The DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) Disaster Preparedness section works with FEMA and other Federal partners to respond to community concerns that may arise before, during, and after a disaster. We lead the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities (ICC) which serves as a resource for governmental and non-governmental partners to ensure disaster preparedness, response, and recovery strategies are inclusive of individuals with disabilities. The ICC submits an annual Report to the President, which includes policy recommendations to address weaknesses that may be present within disaster-related programs as these pertain to individuals with disabilities. We are very interested in learning about your disaster-related experiences, whether connected to preparedness, response, or recovery. We are seeking feedback related to topics such as: receipt of public alerts and warnings that preceded disasters; access to public information related to disasters; the availability of suitable sheltering, community services, and disaster benefits; and inclusion in community-based recovery related activities. We solicit your input for the ICC report recommendations.

****Video unavailable on FEMA website****

Inclusion of People with Disabilities into CERT (Boyce)

CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team. Community leadership in through Citizen Corps has successfully integrated people with disabilities into the Orange County, FL CERT program. People with disabilities can be included in the Planning, Training and Exercises for their local CERT when the whole community becomes involved in emergency management. Everyone can accomplish activities to mitigate property loss and to minimize human discomfort prior to and after a disaster. This workshop presents an overview of CERT objectives and proposed training syllabus. "Hands on" CERT training provides universal access to basic emergency management best practices. The American Disabilities Act and the Good Samaritan Act supplement CERT inclusion of people with disabilities and in strengthening community resiliency.

Accessible Video Link:

<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-31.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-31.pdf>

Inclusion Requires Communication (Chiodo)

This presentation will provide an insight to proven Accessible Communication services/tools that have been used on local, state and federal levels. These services allow for “inclusion” throughout the entire disaster life cycle of Preparedness, Response, Recovery and Mitigation for individuals with access and functional needs. The Accessible Hazard Alert System (AHAS™) is a proven program that creates accessible emergency information in American Sign Language video, Voice, and Text for delivery to internet/video capable devices for persons who are Deaf, HOH, Blind, Deaf-Blind, or those with Low Literacy. Services are delivered 24/7. The Shelter Link™ program provides shelter operator’s access to interpreters thru video conferencing or VoIP technology facilitating effective communication between shelter workers and evacuees who rely on American Sign Language (ASL) or spoken foreign languages. This program helps Shelters meet FNSS guidelines for providing assistive technology for accessible communications. Pre-Recorded Interpreting (PRI) can be used to make redundant information accessible in ASL video, voice and text in English and spoken foreign languages. Pre-Recorded interpreting messages can provide accessible emergency information for websites, digital display of rules and services available in shelters, Disaster Recovery Center information, Forms/Applications, written instructions and other public notification materials.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-32.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-32.pdf>

Inclusive Emergency Planning and Response –It's About the Partnerships (Ford / Davis)

The promising practices will be co-presented by Karin Ford, Iowa Department of Public Health and Jon Davis, Polk County Emergency Management demonstrating the importance of collaboration, partnerships and harnessing the strength of people with access and functional needs, providers and family members in emergency planning. Ms. Ford will focus on disability, ADA compliance and accessibility and how that translates into emergency planning. Mr. Davis will focus on the elements of planning for the whole community, emergency operations plans and maintaining relationships that can provide the support needed to effective preparedness, response and recovery. The presentation will also include strategies to determine the viability of locations for accessible sheltering, possible temporary modifications to increase accessibility, training volunteers for supporting roles in sheltering and identifying resources.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-33.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-33.pdf>

Islamic Relief USA – A Story of Service for the Whole Community (Lea)

IRUSA provides humanitarian services to the whole community, serving in support of general population shelters with a focus on emotional and functional needs in support of people displaced by natural and manmade disasters.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-34.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-34.pdf>

Louisiana Promising Practices: Preparedness Planning for All (Karam & Abadie)

In the past, many people with access and functional needs could not safely and comfortably stay in a general population shelter, unless they were accompanied by a caregiver. Not all people with access and functional needs require a caregiver when they are in their own home, but when out of their familiar environment, may require personal assistance services or assistive technology to be as safe and independent as possible in the shelter. The project developed by the Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition in Louisiana introduces methods of supplying both personal assistance and assistive technology to those that need it. By providing these support services in general population shelters, all people, including those with access and functional needs will be able to stay in a general population shelter after a disaster. This promising practice prevents people with access and functional needs from unnecessarily going to a segregated emergency shelter, or worse, being forced into a hospital or nursing facility after a disaster. Jamie Landry Karam of Louisiana's AT Act Program, LATAN, and Jeanne Abadie, Advocacy Center, will present this promising practice in hopes that it will be replicated across the nation.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-35.php>

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Maximizing Emergency Preparedness Communication Access for First Responders working with People who are Deaf (Engleman)

A 2004 landmark report from Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Advocacy Network gave “a failing grade” to U.S. public warning and emergency communications systems for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing (Deaf/HH) post-9/11. Despite a robust literature on cultural competence training, there is a paucity of research on preparedness and emergency communications education for first responders working with the Deaf/HH Preliminary results from pilot evaluation research will be presented. Findings will be presented from training workshops for law enforcement as first responders for the purpose of increasing officers' cultural competency in working with Deaf/HH people during domestic and sexual violence (DV/SV) emergencies. A mixed methods design was utilized in the form of (1) a pre- and post-test survey before and after, and (2) a semi-structured focus group after the training. Evaluating training can advance emergency preparedness systems research: understanding and responding to the needs of this population has enormous potential to improve emergency preparedness and response for all populations. Governmental agencies, first responders and NGOs can benefit from the evaluation of a training program for first responders, which can lead to the development of best practices for first-responders to handle any communication barriers that may emerge after a disaster.

****Video unavailable on FEMA website****

Missouri Community Preparedness for Seniors (Hunter)

As Missouri's State Unit on Aging's Disaster Response Coordinator, Charity J. Hunter, will present specific details on the benefits of continuously working to build partnerships in the health and emergency management sectors in order to advocate for seniors and adults with disabilities and ensure that this population is represented in all stages of planning, preparedness, response, and recovery. In 2011 Missouri has already experienced multiple disasters with the largest response required from the EF5 tornado that hit Joplin on May 22nd. While the recovery and rebuilding will be ongoing; there are already many successes and lessons learned to share. Ms. Hunter and the Missouri Division of Senior and Disability Services received a letter of commendation from the U.S. Assistant Secretary on Aging, Kathy Greenlee, for their efforts in the response to the Joplin Tornado. Ms. Hunter's presentation will describe: how to collaborate with state, federal, private, and voluntary partners during disasters to better protect and advocate for seniors and adults with disabilities; the lessons learned from Joplin; and how to implement these lessons in any state.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-37.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-37.pdf>

Planning Tools (Matherly)

This presentation describes a Toolkit to be used by agencies to establish direct, credible communication with diverse populations – especially those most vulnerable in emergencies. The Toolkit builds a Community Outreach Information Network (COIN), an approach that has been used successfully in public health, is cited in federal guidance, and has recently been used to customize a guide and toolkit for transportation and emergency managers. This presentation reflects recent research by the presenters in emergency planning efforts nationwide that identifies vulnerable populations’ “trusted resources,” agencies and influencers (neighborhood, community) they consider pivotal to decision-making in emergencies. The approach provides ways (even templates, scripts, etc.) for emergency management professionals to assure that individuals too often excluded from community planning processes can participate fully. Putting the approach into practice guarantees that every person in a community can get the emergency information he or she needs to prepare, respond, and recover.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-38.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-38.pdf>

Preparing Together - A Partnership to Prepare Seniors and Individuals with Functional and Access Needs (Orfitelli)

Preparing Together is a volunteer driven initiative designed to assist senior citizens and people with disabilities in developing a personalized preparedness plan. Studies clearly indicate that many seniors, as well as individuals with functional and access needs make up a large part of the “at risk population” that is most affected by disasters. Preparing Together addresses many of the challenges that put people at risk. This workshop will explain how Preparing Together cultivates and trains volunteers to reach out to vulnerable populations through church groups, service clubs and community groups. At the heart of the matter is the identification of those who need assistance, and assessing what level of assistance will take place. Preparing Together was designed as a partnership between volunteer and participant. A specific preparedness tool called the Preparing Together Planning Tool is used to organize all of the important information and to provide guidance in preparing for emergencies of all types. In this presentation, an overview of the role of the volunteer will be discussed.

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Reflecting on the Joy, Power and Magic of Disaster Preparedness (Ruge)

How to prepare for emergencies is embarrassingly simple. We have excellent preparedness models. We all know what we need to do to be prepared, but too few of us take the time to prepare. This presentation will discuss possible reasons WHY we don't prepare and the tremendous opportunities and benefits of mounting a cultural shift from dependency on others to self sufficiency and resiliency. There have been many cultural shifts in our lifetime from seatbelts to prosecuting drunk drivers. The Independent Living movement has been one of the most important and significant ongoing cultural shifts benefiting not only those with access and functional needs, but our entire population. The presenter will discuss what he calls The ROSE Initiative whose purpose is to awaken an international cultural shift from dependency on others to individual, to communal, to planetary self-sufficiency in the event of disasters. The presenter will discuss why we all are participating in this undertaking and key elements to remember in our future travels together, such as Keep ALL the Principles of Independent Living Alive, Keep It Simple, Effortless and Fun, Rewiring our Neurotransmitters, Elephants, Dolphins and Moken Sea Gypsies, Be the 100th Monkey, etc..

****Video unavailable on FEMA website****

Responding to Emergencies with Youth: the Wisconsin Experience (Menard-Muller and Students)

The Wisconsin Responding to Emergencies and Disasters with Youth (READY) Camp initiative equips youth with skills to prevent injuries, identify vulnerable situations, build leadership, and respond to emergencies and disasters until additional help arrives. Through activity based learning and challenges, students ages 13 to 18 build confidence and add training and certifications that make them leaders when they return to their schools and communities. READY Camp, which is held annually, includes teens with cognitive, learning, and mobility issues as participants and all are educated about access issues of those with disabilities. During the 2011 camp, a teen with a diagnosis of autism successfully completed the week of activities. READY youth are involved in activities and service learning projects that address the inclusion, integration, dignity, independence, accessibility and self-determination for all individuals. Maggie Menard-Mueller, a full-time junior high teacher, has been a McPherson College instructor on accommodating disability differences in the classroom. She and three of her students will share ways their school's School Emergency Response Team has grown over the past six years to become a vital component of their school's safety plan. In April 2011, Menard-Mueller integrated FEMA's STEP program through a highly successful peer-to-peer education program that included students with cognitive, behavioral, and mobility issues both as instructors and students.

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<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-41.pdf>

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<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-41.pdf>

San Diego County's Promising Practices (Richardson)

Emergency Managers strive to identify “Subject Matter Experts” as appropriate. For example, we would never ask law enforcement to put out a wildfire. Therefore, in San Diego County, we have created an Access and Functional Needs Workgroup to aid in disaster planning efforts as well as complete additional tasks. These will include the review of the County’s Emergency Operations Plan, and the development of a Resource Guide to assist AFN populations before, during, and after disasters. We also have 3 departments that are responsible for AFN planning, it is a collaborative effort between the Department of Public Health, Aging and Independence Services, and the Office of Emergency Services because of the 3 different perspectives each department brings. San Diego County is also partnering with private agencies to increase the services we can provide specific to the AFN populations: Accessible Alert San Diego mass notification system and contracts with two of the mass transit agencies in the County. San Diego County, by no means, has a solution to everything that may occur during a disaster for everyone. However, we are working diligently to try to find solutions in order to increase the level of preparedness and resiliency of the whole community.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-42.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-42.pdf>

Sign Language Interpreter Strike Teams (Pope, Bailey, Kaufman, Schisler)

Training and Education course to develop strike teams of sign language interpreters and establishing a "resource typing" that can be incorporated into the National Mutual Aid and Resource Management Initiative. The specific goal of the program is to train and pre-credential sign language interpreters to provide ASL interpreting services to the deaf and hard of hearing community during times of crisis. This resource's capability is readily defined and emergency managers will be able to effectively and efficiently request and receive this resource through mutual aid during times of disaster. Too often, government and organizations rely on "volunteer" interpreters, at the last minute, these interpreters often are not qualified or prepared for what they may encounter and become problematic for first responders in addition to them being vulnerable to secondary trauma and PTSD. The immediate availability of strike teams for the deaf and hard of hearing community is synonymous to having an access ramp into a building. The secondary and tertiary trauma to the deaf and hard of hearing community is easily rectified by having a resource readily available, trained and educated. In addition, the program emphasizes personal preparedness for the interpreter, as many interpreters have deaf family and friends, or are themselves deaf, this program assists government with their message of "personal readiness".

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-43.php>

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<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-43.pdf>

Stair Descent Device Performance: Current Research and Standards Efforts (Lavender/Hedman)

Stair descent devices, or evacuation chairs, have received significant attention since the attacks on the World Trade Center in 1993 and 2001. However, most information on the devices is either anecdotal or in the form of literature provided by the manufacturers. The performance of evacuation chairs is of interest to consumers, emergency planners, life safety professionals, and building owners / managers. How do these devices really perform? What standards exist that can give people confidence on purchasing decisions? Project SDD, a 3-year study funded by the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, has begun the research needed in this area, examining the demands on the operators of the devices. The project is a collaboration between the University of Illinois at Chicago's Department of Disability & Human Development and School of Public Health, and The Ohio State University Department of Integrated Systems Engineering. RESNA, the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America, is developing a product standard that will cover performance criteria, test methods, and inspection procedures to help ensure that effective devices are readily available. The presentation will summarize the current status of Project SDD and the RESNA Standards.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-44.php>

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**Teaching and Empowering Local Communities:
Learning how to Include and Respond to People with Disabilities
(Whalen)**

THT is an innovative program that has as its ultimate goal proper and progressive municipality response for its citizens with disabilities. It educates the participant while providing strategies on how to become an active member of your municipality whereby you have ongoing involvement and input into all matters your town is involved with relative to disability awareness and response. Laws, regulations, and procedures are ignored everyday within your municipality but through your advocacy this will no longer occur. The base of this is accessibility, hiring practices, department specific understanding (i.e. Police, Emergency services) and program options (i.e. Recreation, Parks), and employee education. Presence, inclusion, empowerment, and education are the end results of THT.

****Video unavailable on FEMA website****

Team Building and Collaboration in Hawaii (Jackson)

As the only state comprised of islands, Hawaii has a unique perspective on emergency preparedness and emergency response. There are no bordering states to which people can drive or obtain refuge or supplies during a disaster. Everything must be brought in by air or ship. Therefore before and after a disaster, people in Hawaii must develop relationships with each other as individuals and agencies to work together to create partnerships and build teams to plan and survive. Resources are pooled and shared in order to survive and rebuild after an emergency or disaster. In the fall of 2005, three agencies (Hawaii Department of Health, State Civil Defense and the Disability and Communication Access Board) collaborated to develop and implement an “Interagency Action Plan for the Emergency Preparedness of Persons with Disabilities and Special Health Needs.” This plan is a road map to guide stakeholders to create emergency preparedness plans and activities that include and support individuals with disabilities and their families prior to and during an emergency. It is part of our island culture to live and work together as “ohana” or family.

Accessible Video Link:

<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-46.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-46.pdf>

**Texas Functional Needs Support Services Toolkit:
Integration, Collaboration and Content
(O'Neill)**

This presentation will review the development of and information contained in the State of Texas Functional Needs Support Services Toolkit. We will also discuss next steps for Texas Disability Integration and projects in emergency management. This kit provides planning guidance to local emergency management and shelter planners and can be incorporated into existing shelter plans to meet access and functional needs in general population shelters. This toolkit provides guidance to assist planners in understanding the requirements related to sheltering children and adults with and without disabilities who have access and functional needs in the State of Texas.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-47.php>

Text Transcript:

<http://itsallon.tv/media/transcripts/11-09-12-grii-tr-practices-47.pdf>

The New Disaster Policy Wiki - What It Is and How To Use It (Smilowitz)

After disasters occur, disability rights organizations, the Government Accountability Office, Congress, Inspectors General, states, FEMA, and many others release policy reports and recommendations, often called "lessons learned." We know the drill: soon after Anderson Cooper heads home, the political will to address "problems realized" quickly fades. This is why the same recommendations for improvement are often repeated from one disaster to the next. Disaster Accountability Project created a "Disaster Policy Wiki" to serve as a clearinghouse of these policy recommendations so they are not forgotten. This summer, our legal interns added over 1000 policy recommendations into the Wiki and we plan to add many more. If we collectively track the status of these policy recommendations, fewer will be forgotten and together we can advocate for their implementation. Furthermore, disability rights advocates, government and nonprofit employees, and even disaster relief volunteers can share information about the status of these policy recommendations. We all want to see improvements and sometimes change doesn't happen fast enough. Hopefully this new Disaster Policy Wiki can help move things along by shining some light on the progress of life/death policy reform.

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Text Transcript:

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Three R's and a P (Allan)

The Disability Policy Consortium will describe an advocacy approach toward solving perennial problems in emergency management that stem from the lack of a commitment to inclusionary planning. The DPC is currently organizing constituents and using available leverage to create systemic change in Massachusetts. Eastern Massachusetts had a major water crisis in May 2010. This presentation will move from that event through a series of actions and other emergency crises to Hurricane Irene in August. Participants will be reintroduced to principle of organizing and setting the framework for effective advocacy.

****Video unavailable on FEMA website****

Using the CMIST Model to Engage Community (Springer, Hasauer)

In the summer of 2010, under the leadership of Stearns County Emergency Management, five meetings were organized around the CMIST model of determining access and functional needs. Over 40 agencies and individuals participated in the 5 different meetings in which we asked a handful of questions to learn from the various communities—“what do we need to know about meeting community needs during disaster planning, response and recovery?” We had previous annex documents to guide the conversation with what we already knew, but encouraged the participants to help us “dig deeper” into nuances that might not be apparent at the county emergency manager level. This process revealed many new ideas, new partners, and good conversations about managing expectations. Several activities have since been planned and carried out to test this annex including functional and table top exercises.

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<http://gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/vod/11-09-12-grii-p-practices-50.php>

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